

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-06

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P R 301530Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3683

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY BANJUL POUCH

S E C R E T DAKAR 0601

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, GA

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH PRES JAWARA ON ANGOLA

REF: STATE 020926

SUMMARY: IN JANUARY 29 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR, GAMBIAN PRESIDENT JAWARA CONVEYED IMPRESSION THAT GAMBIA WOULD STICK BY ITS MODERATE POSITION ON ANGOLA, DESPITE MPLA VICTORIES AND PRESSURE FROM MPLA PARTISANS. HOWEVER, HE WAS CLEARLY DISTRESSED BY US CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS. JAWARA WAS PLEASED AT GAMBIA'S EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH SENEGAL, BUT HIS SENEGAL-GUINEA MEDIATION EFFORTS HAVE COME TO NOTHING. HE PLANS MARCH TRIP TO LIBYA, SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT AND UAE. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT JAWARA RECEIVED ME JAN 29 IN BANJUL FOR FORTH MINUTE DISCUSSION WITH MAIN FOCUS ON CURRENT ANGOLA SITUATION. DRAWING ON REFTTEL, I PRESENTED FULL, FRANK APPRAISAL LATEST BATTLE FIELD DEVELOPMENTS, AND REAFFIRMED US POSITION IN
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CONTEXT OF HOUSE VOTE ON TUNNY AMENDMENT.

3. JAWARA LISTENED CAREFULLY, MAKING POINTS ON SMALL MAP OF ANGOLA ON HIS DESK. HE INDICATED HIS INFORMATION TENDED SUPPORT OUR OWN ASSESSMENT. HE SAW 23 STATES SUPPORTING NATIONAL UNITY SOLUTION, BASING THAT POSITION ON FIRM PRINCIPLE AND CONCERN FOR ANGOLA'S NEIGHBORS, ESPECIALLY ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE. HE NOTED TANZANIAN ENVOY HAD RECENTLY BEEN TO FREETOWN, INDICATING POSSIBLE SLIPPAGE IN SIERRA LEONE SUPPORT FOR ANTI-MPLA GROUP.

4. CITING DANGEROUS AND ALMOST UNPRECEDENTED SPECTACLE OF FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES IMPOSING WILL ON AFRICAN NATION, JAWARA WAS CRITICAL SOVIET AND CUBAN MASSIVE INTERVENTION. HE ADDED THAT SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT HARDLY SURPRISING UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. JAWARA CONVEYED IMPRESSION THAT GAMBIA WOULD STICK BY ITS POSITION DESPITE PRESSURES OF MPLA FIELD VICTORIES AND EFFORTS AT PERSUASION BY GUINEA AND OTHER PARTISANS' RECOGNITION OF MPLA REGIME. HOWEVER, IT WAS CLEAR THAT HE WAS DISTRESSED BY FACT US CONGRESS HAD SEVERELY LIMITED OUR CAPABILITY FOR IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO SOVIET-CUBAN THRUST.

5. JAWARA WAS PLEASED AT WHAT HE CONSIDERED EXCELLENT STATE RELATIONS WITH SENEGAL. HE AGREED THAT GAMBIA'S EFFORTS PROMOTE SENEGAL-GUINEA RECONCILIATION HAVE COME TO NOTHING.

6. REGARDING GAMBIAN DOMESTIC POLITICS, JAWARA REMARKED THAT ELECTIONS MUST BE HELD BY 1977. HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT: "I KEEP THEM GUESSING ABOUT TIMING." PRESIDENT GAVE NO INDICATION GREAT CONCERN ABOUT OPPOSITION THREAT.

7. PRESIDENT MENTIONED HE PLANS TRAVEL TO LIBYA, SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, AND UAE DURING MARCH. FONMIN N'JIE PRESENTLY IN MIDDLE EAST TO FIRM UP DATES. HE HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER HE WOULD ATTEND JULY OAU SUMMIT IN PORT LOUIS.

8. COMMENT: IN PAST, THE GAMBIA HAS BEEN AMONG LAST AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO ABANDON MODERATE POSITIONS IN FACE OF AFRICAN CONSENSUS. HOWEVER TO HELP KEEP THEM STEADFAST, PERIODIC BRIEFINGS BY CHARGE OR AMB WILL BE HELPFUL, PARTICULARLY INCLUDING POSITIVE STEPS USG IS TAKING IN SUPPORT OF POLICY

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WE URGED MODERATES TO SUPPORT. DAKAR ENBOFF, WHO CALLED ON INSPECTOR GENERAL LLOYD EVANS, HEAD OF POLICE AND FIELD FORCES, REPORTED JAWARA'S GREAT CONSTERNATION WITH HOUSE VOTE OF TUNNEY AMENDMENT. AGGREY

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